



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

**OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

**Sexual Assault Prevention and Response  
SAPRline of Courage Guidance**

1. **Purpose.** To issue guidance for all Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) personnel and/or individuals (i.e. veterans, family members) interested in shipping shirts to the OSD SAPR office for the April 2010 DoD-wide SAPRline of Courage. The SAPRline of Courage will be held in the Pentagon in a location to TBD from 07-30 April 2010.

2. **Goal:** To engage bystanders and policy makers to fully support the SAPR program, show the world DoD's commitment to preventing sexual assault in the military and that we genuinely care about the Service members who have been affected by this devastating crime.

3. **Discussion.**

- a. The DoD SAPRline of Courage will include all genders and speak specifically to the issue of sexual assault. Shirts will be decorated by victims to represent their experience and by others who want to show their support. During a public display, a clothesline will be hung with the shirts submitted.
- b. The purpose of the project is to do the following:
  - Bear witness to survivors of sexual assault;
  - Help with the healing process for people with a love one who has been affected or is a survivor;
  - Educate, document and raise awareness of the extent of the problem of sexual assault in the military; and
  - Provide a military wide network of support, and encouragement.
- c. Senior leadership from DoD and from our external federal partners will be invited as speakers.

A representative sample of the shirts will be transitioned into a permanent display within the Pentagon.

- d. DoD SAPR will hold a single special event in the Pentagon; however, similar events could be conducted across the world by our SARCs.

**4. Guidance for:** Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, Victim Advocates, Veterans, family members, and friends of military victims of sexual assault.

- a. Present this opportunity to your commander as a chance for victims and others affected in their units to play a part in and support the DoD-wide SAPRline of Courage. Emphasize to the commander that this project is a method of self-recovery, because it gives the participants a way to share their experiences through words and artistic expression.

*Note: Unfortunately, there is no logistical way to ship arts and craft materials to every SARC at installations around the world. If you are unable to acquire materials, please use markers as a way for the participants to illustrate what they would like for their shirts to say or look like.*

- b. Shirts may be requested from OSD SAPRO at the contact info below. OSD has a limited number of shirts so make your request early. OSD will ship shirts January, 2010, pending release of funding. We are issuing this guidance early for planning purposes. Please contact your local government purchase card holder/judge advocate for approval to purchase your own supplies.
- c. All shirts must be mailed to our office **no earlier than March 1, 2010** due to limited space availability. If you are overseas, mail shirts in the time-frame you think is required.
- d. **Remember there are over 600 SARCs! One shirt from each of you will give us 600 shirts. You can show your commitment by participating in this project.**
- e. Only shirts will be used (no pants, underwear, etc.). If you cannot purchase new shirts for this event you can use old military physical fitness, duty or old shirts turned inside out. You might ask everyone in your unit to clean out their closets for shirt donations. **Also, if you have any shirts from previous similar projects please feel free to use those for submissions and they will be returned to you. HOWEVER, please tell survivors they may not identify perpetrators. In addition, there should be no drawings or language that would be inappropriate for children to see or use.**
- f. Many people prefer the additional support felt when making their shirt together with others. Shirt-making sessions are very helpful and help build community support.



**HINT:** Reconsider the use of fabric, puff paints or glue at shirt-making sessions. They are slow to dry and puff-paints remain "tacky", causing printing to stick together when being stored in suitcases between displays. Permanent markers and acrylic paints work well. Both dry quickly.

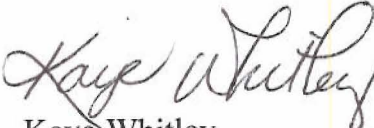
- g. You might want to keep track of your shirts and when possible, who made them, when and where. It can become an important component in honoring each person's history. As shirts come in, you might want to put a number, mark or other "clue" written in indelible ink inside the collar (such as a safety pin with the owner's name and/or a identifying number attached to the shirt). Some projects also keep a logbook with those numbers, photographs of the shirts and other pertinent information. Many people will submit shirts but not be comfortable with revealing anything else about their shirt. They may also opt not to have it displayed. It doesn't matter - what's important is that each person feels they have a voice.

*Note: If you would like for SAPRO to return shirts not chosen for the permanent display, please put a note in the box or contact the POC below to ensure that happens at the end of April.*

- h. You might want to keep tissues handy and be prepared for an intense emotional experience. We feel that having support available for people during the process is important. We try to maintain an awareness of the individual, and if it seems appropriate, approach them with a sympathetic word, tissue, eye contact, or whatever seems comfortable and appropriate. Whenever possible we also provide more private, safe areas with counselors or victim advocates on hand. Think about ways you can design these into your session.
- i. To allow more privacy for victims, you may want to hold the event where the entire installation and camp are not aware it is going on. This, of course, will be installation-dependent, and we trust you, as the SARC/VA, to do what is best for your situation and location.
- j. Please be sure to take time to support yourselves through de-briefing, check-ins, and any supervision appropriate for you and your group.
- k. Please stay in touch and let us know how you are doing. In this way we can all learn from each other and keep connected first with our hearts and then with our lines. **Also, feel free to contact your program managers if they can help in any way.** Good luck and thank you!

*Note: This project is patterned after the Clothesline Project, as a Federal entity, neither SAPRO nor any other DoD entity may endorse that organization or any other Non-Federal Entity without specific legal authority to do so. You can go to the Clothesline Project website to obtain more how-to-do it guidance at [www.clotheslineproject.org](http://www.clotheslineproject.org).*

5. My point of contact for this project is Marci Hodge, OSD SAAM Coordinator, at [marci.hodge@wso.whs.mil](mailto:marci.hodge@wso.whs.mil), or 703-696-9412/571-748-8967. Please contact Marci or your local SAPR leadership to give us an idea as to how many shirts we can expect to receive by March 10, 2010.

  
Kaye Whitley  
Director, SAPRO

**Mailing Address:**

OSD SAPRO

Attn: Marci Hodge

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